

the cutting portion comprising a front cutting surface and front chip flutes formed in a side surface of the cutting portion and intersecting the cutting face to form cutting edges therewith;

the tool body and cutting portion being interconnected by a dovetail-shaped bayonet coupling formed by projections disposed on one of the tool body and cutting portion, and recesses formed in the other of the tool body and cutting portion, the projections being circumferentially offset with respect to the flutes and extending generally longitudinally, the recesses extending circumferentially from respective flutes, the flutes sized to longitudinally receive respective projections during longitudinal insertion or removal of the cutting portion relative to the tool body, the bayonet coupling further comprising a first oblique surface and a second oblique surface, the cutting portion being rotatable about the center axis relative to the tool body to transfer the projections from the respective flutes into the recesses with an elastic slide fit between the first and second oblique surfaces, while bringing the front and rear flutes into mutual alignment.

(New) 19. The tool according to claim 18, wherein the elastic slide fit produces elastic deflection of the projections.

R E M A R K S

Entry of the foregoing is respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits.

The claims have been amended consistent with, and in support of, Applicants' request for Reissue of U.S. Patent No. 5,971,673.

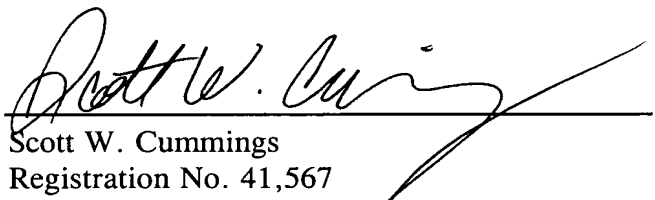
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Support for the above-noted claim amendments can be found at least at the following locations in the disclosure of the 5,971,673 patent: Figures 1-9; column 1, line 50 through column 2, line 31; column 3, lines 1-2; column 4, lines 37-42; and column 4, lines 56-59.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any aspect of the present application with the goal of expediting prosecution thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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